

SMOKING DEVICE WITH SELF-CONTAINED IGNITION MEANS

Cross-reference to related application

Priority is claimed in Provisional Patent Application Serial Number 60/320028 filed March 20, 2003.

Background of the Invention

- [0001] This invention relates to smoking devices and more particularly to smoking devices having a self-igniting feature.
- [0002] The idea for a combination smoking device and lighter has been known for almost 100 years, see US Patent 1,053,039 to Karnes, which teaches a cumbersome pipe/lighter/storage compartment combination, which meets the functional requirements for a self-igniting smoking device at the cost of considerable distraction in the appearance of the device.
- [0003] Typical techniques for achieving a combined smoking device and lighter include the idea of mimicking a human in lighting the combustible smoking material as would be accomplished by an external match or lighter in which the flame is applied to the top of the bowl. See, for example US Patents 1,938,874 to Stone, 2,455,583 to Ireson, 2,532,820 to Pelt, 2,549,727 to Van Toll, PCT Published Application WO-82/03536 to Stewart and particularly US Patent 2,588,934 to O'Neill, Jr. in which a lighter of conventional design is stored in the stem and is movable to the top of the bowl to effect ignition of the contents.
- [0004] The disadvantages of the 'top lighters' is that either the presence of a cumbersome mechanism is required or extensive design is required to incorporate the ignition means within the form of the smoking device.

[0005] Another approach to a self-igniting a pipe-like smoking device is to ignite the contents of the smoking bowl from the bottom of the bowl, as taught in US Patent 1,157,771 to Fulton. Other representative examples of 'bottom lighters' are US Patents 3,402,723 to Hu and 3,882,876 to Covington. These last three mentioned references also provide for ignition by and electric element placed within the bowl of the smoking device.

[0006] Also known is the use of piezoelectric phenomena to provide the ignition means, see 3,698,400 to Tucker.

[0007] The disadvantages of the above 'bottom lighters' is that the ignition of the combustible material, normally aided by drawing of air through the mouthpiece, is hindered by the fact that the drawing of air will prevent the ignition because the ignition source is downstream from the contents of the bowl.

[0008] Finally, there is US Patent 4,276,892 to Isquinta which teaches the use of a moveable ignition means which extends in the bowl during the ignition phase of using the smoking device and is withdrawn after ignition.

[0009] Again, the complexity of such a mechanism is overwhelming.

Summary of the Invention

[0010] Accordingly, it is an object of the instant invention to provide a smoking device/lighter combination in which the ignition means is entirely contained within the basic elements of the device and which does not include an open flame.

[0011] Another object is to provide a smoking device/lighter combination in which the point of ignition is within the central portion of the bowl allowing the ignition of the combustibles to be aided by the drawing of air through a mouthpiece of the device.

[0012] These and other objects are achieved by the instant invention in providing a small combination smoking device and self-igniting means in which the ignition portion of the combination is contained entirely within the interior of the smoking device itself and where the point of ignition is other than at the top or the bottom of the bowl containing the smoking material.

[0013] In addition, the smoking device is small and compact such that it easily fits into one's pocket before, during and after use, if one so desires.

[0014] The invention will be more fully understood when reviewed in terms of the following drawings and description.

Brief description of the drawings

[0015] FIG. 1 is a top view of the smoking device of the invention.

[0016] FIG. 2 is a side view of the invention showing the relationship of the igniter to the bowl.

[0017] FIG. 3 is a side view of the invention showing the mouth piece side.

[0018] FIG. 4 is an isometric view of the invention showing the overall appearance of the smoking device of the invention.

[0019] FIGs. 5A and 5B are a side view and a top view, respectively, of the separate bowl component of the invention.

[0020] FIGs. 6A, 6B, 6C and 6D are top, front, side and isometric views, respectively, of the separate igniter component.

[0021] FIGs. 7A, 7B and 7C are top, side and end views, respectively, of the separate mouth piece component.

[0022] FIGs. 8A and 8B are top and end views, respectively, of the separate fuel tank component.

[0023] FIG. 9 is an isometric view showing the assembled components of the smoking device with the covers removed.

Detailed Description of the Invention

[0024] Referring to FIG. 1, the smoking device of the instant invention has a pipe-like configuration and includes a stem portion 10, a tobacco or other combustible material containing combustion chamber, the upper portion of which comprises a bowl 12 and an optional cap or cover, not shown. Within the stem 10 there is a mouth piece pipe 16 which passes through the stem where it is attached by screw threads to the main body in communication with the opening in the device below where the bottom of the bowl 12 is mounted. On the side of the stem communicating with the combustible material or smoking material receptor below the bowl 12 is an igniter, the end of which 26 protrudes into the opening below the bowl. Optionally, there may be provided vent holes, not shown, in the bowl in order to facilitate use of the smoking device with a cap installed. Mounted on the side of the device is a button 20 used to activate the igniter. Finally, there is provided a pair of optional removable, slidable covers 18 allowing access to the interior of the device for the reception of a fuel tank and other material such as an additional supply of combustible material.

[0025] The materials of construction of the smoking device can be materials such as metals, specifically aluminum or stainless steel, or hard thermosetting plastics which can be molded or machined to the desired shapes necessary to facilitate the manufacture of the invention. Traditional wood may also be used. Because the bowl 12 can become quite hot in use, it is preferred to use a material with a low coefficient of thermal conductivity for the exterior of bowl 12. The bowl may also be separately insulated.

[0026] Referring now to FIG. 2, there is shown a side view of the smoking device showing the push button or actuator 20, a part of the igniter 30 protruding from the side of the device. Actuation of button 20 causes the ignition mechanism, shown in FIG. 6, to provide a torch-like flame, not shown, to enter the receptacle just below bowl 12.

[0027] FIG. 3 is a end view of the smoking device of the invention looking at the mouth piece end. Here it can be seen that the mouth piece pipe 16 is mounted within the stem at a point below that of the igniter, as will be explained further in conjunction with FIG. 6.

[0028] FIG. 4 is an isometric view of the smoking device. Here, again, there can be seen the overall relationship between of the bowl 12, the stem 10, the the igniter push button 20, the mouth piece pipe 16 and the removable covers 18.

[0029] FIGs. 5A and 5B are side and top views, respectively, of the removable bowl 12 showing the threaded portion 29.

[0030] FIGs. 6 A-D are several views of igniter 30 which is of the type known as a piezoelectric torch or jet flame butane or other hydrocarbon gaseous fuel lighter mechanism such as described in U. S. Patent 6,589,045 to Xu, issued July 8, 2003, or in U. S. Patent 4,810,187, issued March 7, 1989 to Nitta, the teachings of which are hereby incorporated by reference. Other igniting mechanisms capable of providing the required torch flame to bowl feature of the instant invention may also be used.

[0031] FIG. 6A is a top view of igniter 30 showing relationship between push button 20 and the active end 26 which protrudes slightly into the combustion chamber. This arrangement allows the torch-like flame to protrude into the combustible material in the bowl facilitating its ignition.

[0032] FIG 6B is an end view of the igniter 30 showing the flame nozzle tip 27, the source of the torch or jet flame.

[0033] FIG. 6C is a side view of the igniter 30 showing the relationship between the elements 20, 26 and 27.

[0034] FIG. 6D is an isometric view of the igniter 30.

[0035] FIGs. 7A, 7B and 7C are top, side and end views, respectively, of the mouth piece pipe 16 showing the threaded portion 17 of the pipe which facilitates the ease of removal for cleaning.

[0036] FIGs. 8A and 8B are side and end views, respectively, of the removable fuel tank 22 which has at its one end a threaded nipple 23 for delivering fuel to the igniter and at its other end a fitting 25 for refilling the fuel tank.

[0037] FIG. 9 is an isometric view of the assembled smoking device with the covers removed, showing the bowl 12, the mouth piece pipe and the fuel tank screwed into the body already containing the igniter. In its preferred form the device is quite small measuring about seven centimeters in length, three and one half centimeters in width by about two and one half centimeters in height.

[0038] While the invention has been described in terms of a single embodiment, those skilled in the art will recognize that other configurations, features and materials may be substituted for those shown. Features purely decorative in nature may be added to the stem or the bowl such as flashing lights powered by the piezoelectric ignition mechanism or by a separate battery added to the storage compartment revealed by the removal of cover 18.